

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALBUQUERQUE FIELD OFFICE

700 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE, SUITE 100

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

SEP 18 1984

SEP 21 1984

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS

John Sweeney, Library/Archaeology
Museum Associates for Maritime Studies
Civil Historical Services Division
The University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 6H6

Dear John Sweeney:

Enclosed is a copy of a report by Mr. Bryan entitled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Pribilof Islands." I am able to provide a copy of this report to you in our files for your use. For your information, the report notes on the pages refer to archaology and the subject given in the title as part of listing on the Pribilof Islands National Monument Survey.

Alan L. Bryan

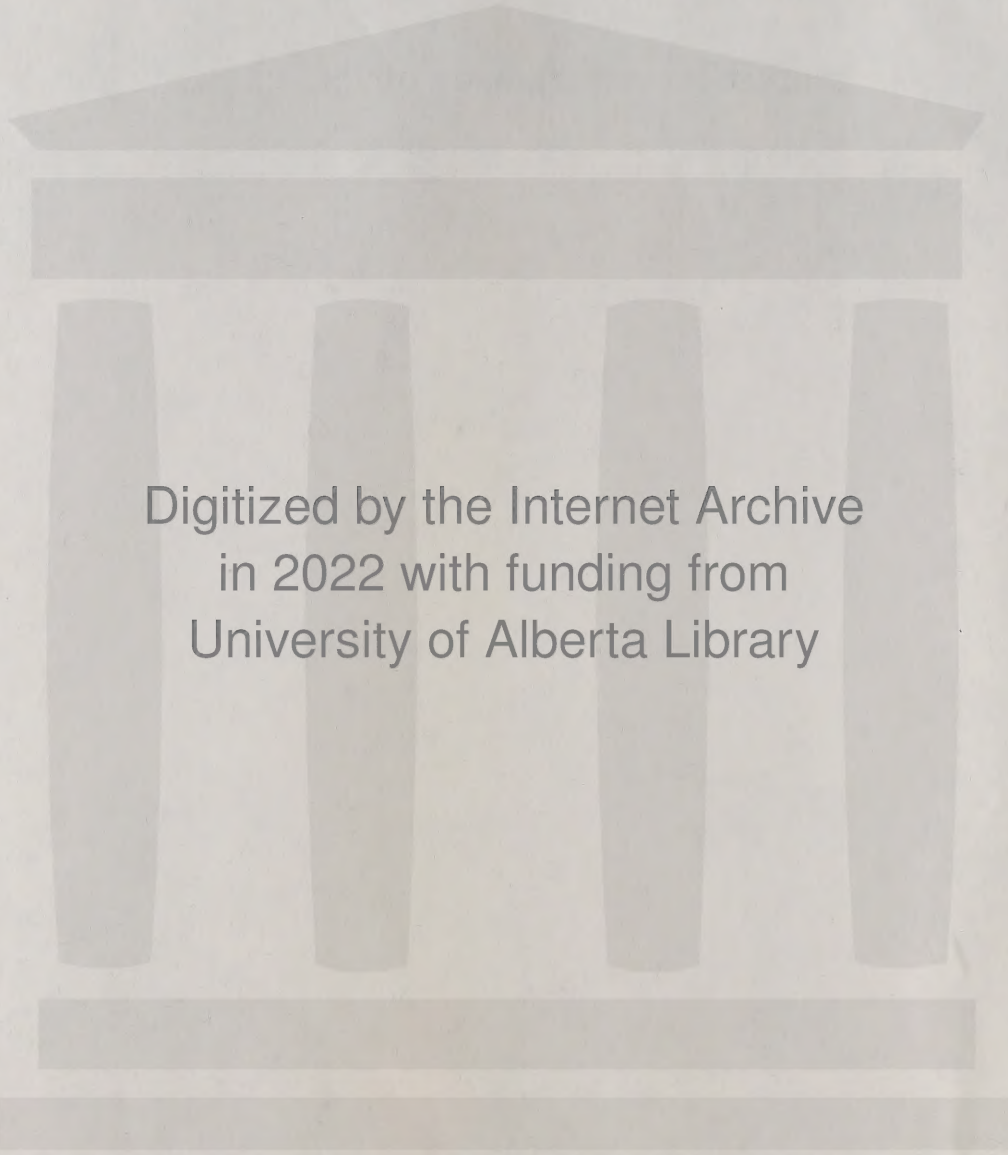
Please contact me directly at 505/763-4111 if you require any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Davis

Gregory W. Davis
Regional Archaeologist

Enclosure



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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OCT 25 1984

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE

2525 Gambell Street, Room 107

Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 2892

OCT 3 - 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (ARO-PCR)

Vera Raschke, Library Assistant
Boreal Institute for Northern Studies
CW401 Biological Sciences Building
The University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G2E9

Dear Vera Raschke:

Enclosed is a copy of the report by Dr. Bryan entitled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Pribilof Islands." I was able to obtain a copy from the Alaska Office of History and Archeology, as we no longer had it in our files for some reason. For your information, the margin notes on the paper refer to archeological site numbers given to the sites as part of listing on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.

Please contact me directly (907/271-4242) if you require any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig W. Davis
Regional Archeologist

Enclosure

BOREAL INSTITUTE
LIBRARY

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS

Alan L. Bryan

Aug 27 1 25 PM '69

An archaeological survey of St. Paul and St. George Islands was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Robson Bonnicksen and Ross Thomsen between August 20 and Sept. 4, 1966. Money for the work came from an NSF grant to the author supplemented by a small travel grant from the Boreal Institute of the University of Alberta. Permission to work on the islands was obtained by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and administrative personnel of the islands in St. Paul Village were quite cooperative.

Thirteen sites were recorded, including the two occupied villages of St. Paul and St. George, nine barabara house pit sites, one probable village site, and one historically recorded village site which had apparently been destroyed or buried by active sand dunes. In addition several isolated cairns were located at various places. Some of these were graves to judge from the crosses; others may have been simply markers.

At Reef Point, south of the present St. Paul village, several rectangular boulder outlines were situated adjacent to a rocky bay. On Lukanin Point at the south end of Lukanin Bay several beach-rolled boulders were apparently placed intentionally for some structure.

Barabara House Pit Sites

St. Paul Island:

2-00 Zapadni Point, about 200 yards east of Antone Lake and 250 yards west of Southwest Bay adjacent to the stream draining the lake. House pits are on top of a consolidated parabolic dune well stabilized by grass and other vegetation. Only disturbance is near the northeast end of the dune where

a frame camp house is located adjacent to a road. There are 23 discernible pits in the highest part of the dune toward the south are the deepest; they are shallower and mostly smaller toward the north. Entrance passageways were discernible on 14 house pits and the three largest house pits, located in a row on the southern arm of the dune, were interconnected by two lateral passageways -- originally probably underground. The largest trio of house pits were from 18 - 20 feet square and from 3 - 5 feet deep with a lip formed by the back dirt. The smaller house pits averaged about 15 feet long by about 12 feet wide. Two long shallow rectangular pits (35 feet long by about 15 feet wide) were surrounded by smaller pits. Some of the smaller pits may have been storage pits.

There is a grave marked with a Russian Catholic cross on a low dune south of the stream which drains Antone Lake. Another cairn grave marked with a cross lies on the hill north of the Zapadni village site.

RP1-000 Halfway Point - Eleven small shallow barabara pits lie on a consolidated parabolic dune situated between two small lakes adjacent to a stream which connects the lakes. The pits vary from 12 to 18 feet on a side and are square to rectangular.

Webster Lake at Northeast Point - At least 22 house depressions lie on two parabolic dunes adjacent to the west end of Webster Lake. The abandoned Webster house and another smaller house are located on the dune north of the road and south of the lake. Midden, consisting of sea mammal bones and historic artifacts (bottles, shoes, iron, etc.) is exposed in many pot holes on both dunes extending for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile southeast of Webster house. Area is being actively potted for the walrus ivory in the midden. Site was used up to World War II as a hunting camp.

North Point -- Old village of Maroonitch north of camp house contains nine barabara pits. One still has a whalebone upright at the entrance to the passageway. The houses are quite small -- the largest about ten feet long by six feet wide. The location of this site is unusual as it is not situated on dunes nor near a lake.

XPI-
#001

Lincoln Bight -- Three barabara pits at the southeast end of a small pond and three more are on a grass-covered slope northwest of the pond about 250 yards away. A modern camp house is situated in the center of the northwest portion of the village. These barabaras were distinctive because each appears to have been divided into two separate compartments with doorways connecting them. Each room was from 8 - 10 feet square or slightly rectangular.

XPI-00

Lukanin Hill -- This site was probably an early Aleut site although it was disturbed for the construction of U. S. Army quarters during WW II and was recently bulldozed again. Recent artifacts and mammal bones were found on the surface of the bulldozed area; a bone projectile point and an artifact fashioned of two vertebrae fastened together had been found in this bulldozed area by Richard Hajny, resident biologist.

XPI-011

Reported village site not located:

Big Lake -- Village of Vesolia Mista situated at north end of lake on Elliott's (Our Arctic Province) map. Area covered with blowing dunes and nothing seen.

XPI-11

St. George Island

Staraya Artil, about 1/8 mile east of the base of First Bluff, is the only generally recognised historic village site on St. George Island.

It was excavated in 1965 by Bill Browne, later a teacher at Rough Rock, Arizona. Photographed one hearth area. Collected a rock with a possible petroglyph, an obsidian flake and several trade beads from disturbed areas. An obsidian point and a whalebone foreshaft (?) from the site were donated by Terenty Merculief of St. George village. All objects are in the University of Alberta anthropology museum. A flat-bottomed whale vertebra bowl (6 1/4" diam. x 6" high) is owned by Benjamin Merculief, Jr. and Agafangel Merculief has an obsidian flake, a flint lock flint, and glass beads from the site. *GRASS REPORTS BETWEEN FIRST & HIGH BLUFFS*

Zapadni Bay -- Three definite and one probable barabara pits are located near the end of the road from 150 - 200 yards north of the modern camp house and Catholic grave house. ^{the shrine} There are also two large rectangular shallow depressions which are probably remains of old camp houses.

The two largest barabara pits are 12 feet square; the smaller 10 feet x 8 feet.

Garden Cove -- One definite and several possible barabara pits are near the small camp house at the mouth of a permanent stream on the south coast of the island. The definite pit is 8 feet x 12 feet x 3 feet deep.

World War II bunkers, which, after they have fallen in, look like barabara pits.

Several in craters of Lake Hill; one pit is still intact.

One in Little Polovina crater.

Several in sand dunes between Lake Hill and Little Polovina.

Two in Eihnahnuto Bluffs crater; one pit is still intact.

Tested rock shelter:

Cone Hill rock shelter (7 yds. wide x 10 yds. deep x 6 feet high) overlooking fresh water pond in crater. Both north and south shores of island visible from cave mouth. Excavated a trench six meters long by two meters wide to bedrock, which varied from about 80 cm. below surface at the mouth to 20 cm. below surface near the rear. Encountered an intrusive channel (?) which contained an occasional disintegrated bone, charcoal flecks, and some water rolled pebbles amongst the sharp scoria.

Tested caves:

Main Bogoslov Hill Cave is a lava tube. Dug one five foot square to 75 cm; another pit farther back under a skylight roof opening was dug to 130 cm. Nothing of interest was found.

Smaller Bogoslov tube -- five foot square dug to 18 cm. with nothing of interest encountered.

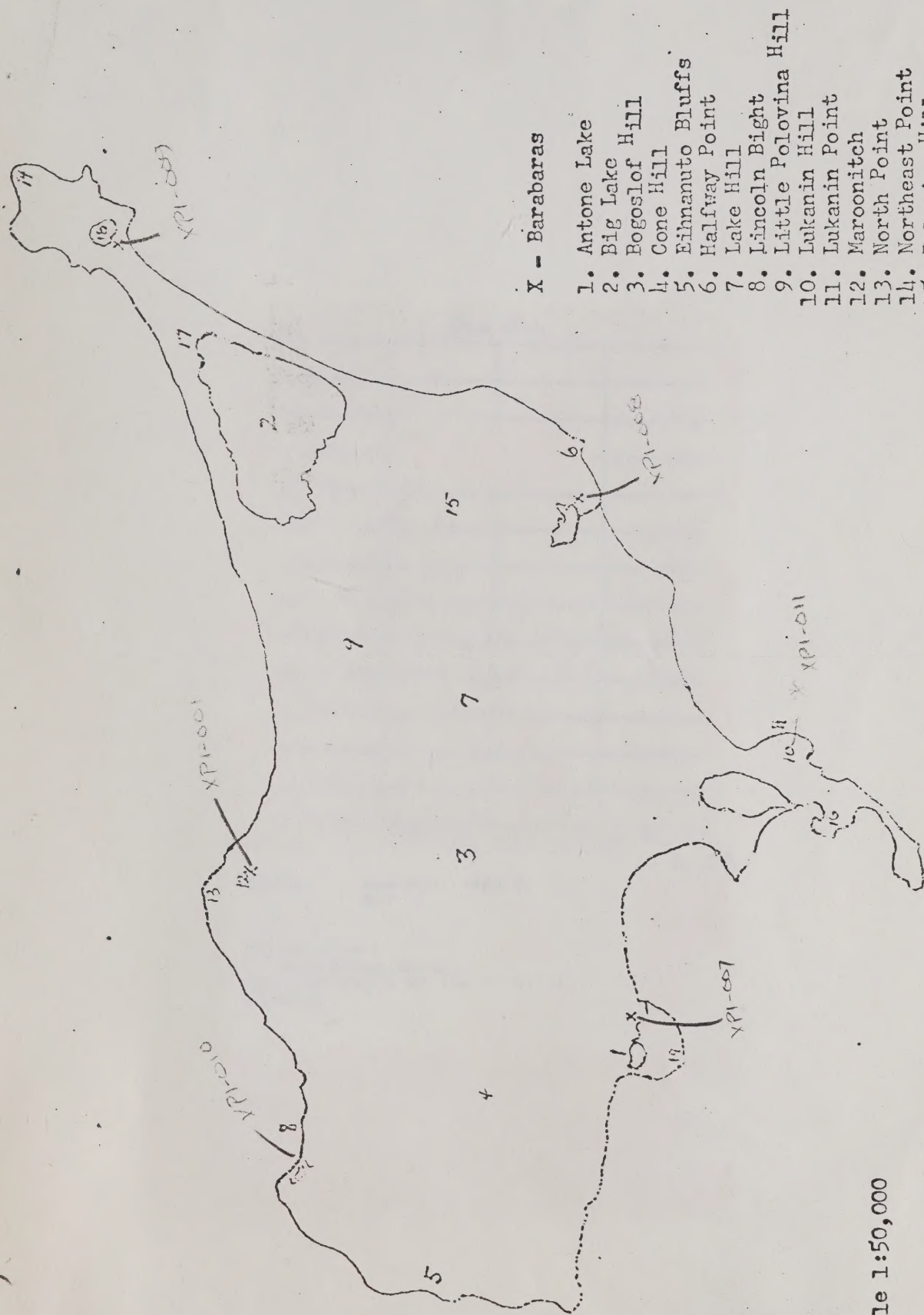
XPI-012
St. Paul Is.

Conclusions

Because of lack of time and a vehicle the reconnaissance of St. George Island was much less intensive than that of St. Paul Island; other sites may be located on St. George. Nine of the sites located, three of which are on St. George, should be excavated as these barabara house pit sites face ultimate destruction by artifact and ivory hunters. Probably a good deal of information about barabara house construction could be obtained from excavations supplemented by historic information about Aleut barabaras.

An intensive excavation program would be valuable because of the near-laboratory conditions present relevant to an archaeological problem of culture change. The exact date of arrival of the Aleut seal hunters is known, and as they were still unacculturated at the time they were moved to the islands by the Russians, a complete picture of culture change from aboriginal conditions through Russian acculturation to early American exploitation up to the modern state of remarkably effective American acculturation could be traced. Such a study, if properly planned and executed, could be of considerable theoretical importance to anthropology as it would demonstrate how archaeology can contribute to a social anthropological study of culture change.

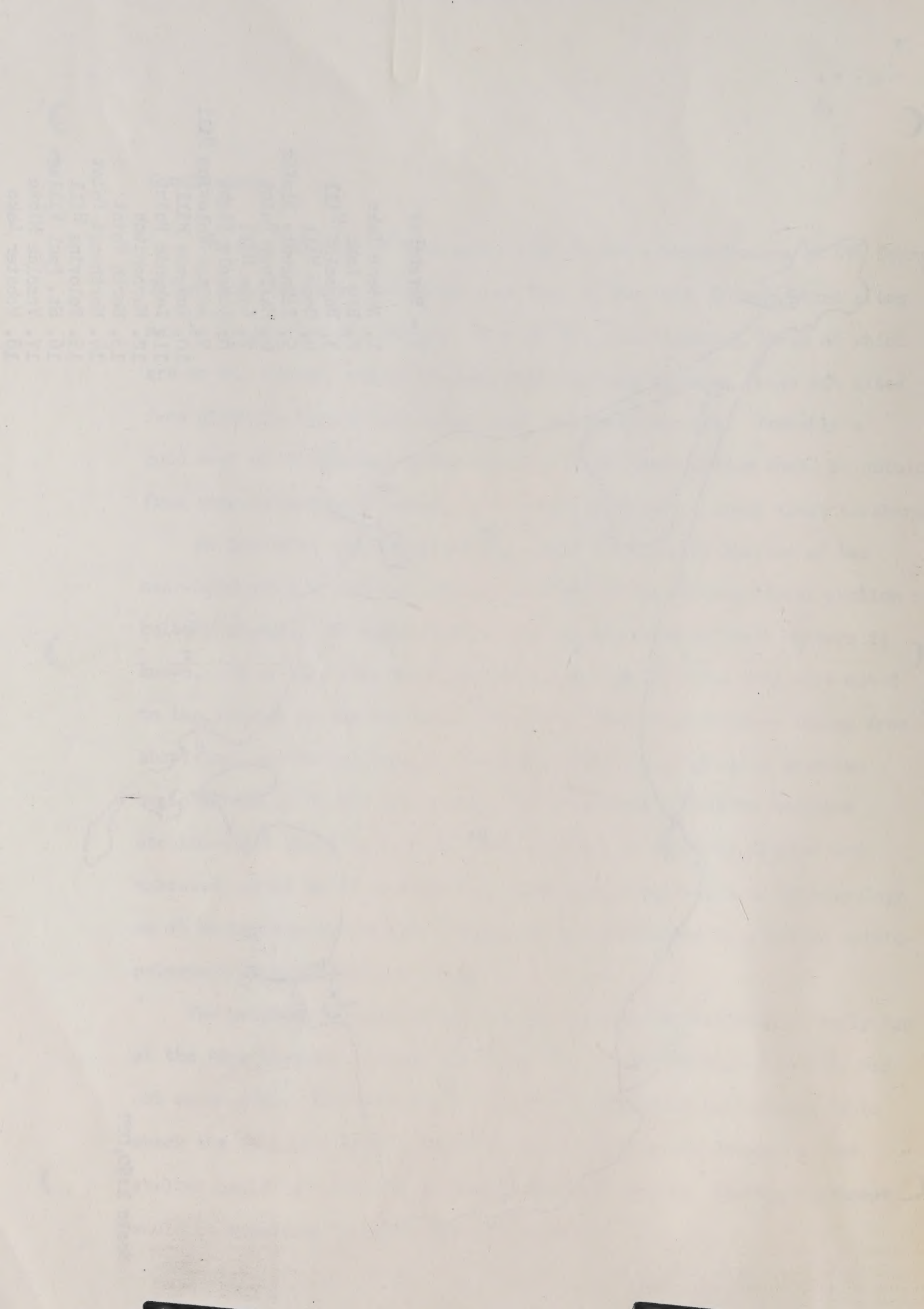
The original purpose of the survey, to look for evidence of early man at the time when the islands are high hills on the Beringian plains, was not successful. The only possibility which should be followed up is to check the high rock shelter near Sea Lion Point on St. George, as the shelter could have existed during interglacial times. Scaling equipment would be necessary to climb into the shelter.



X - Barabaras

1. Antone Lake
2. Big Lake Hill
3. Bogoslof Hill
4. Cone Hill
5. Eihnanuto Bluffs
6. Halfway Point
7. Lake Hill
8. Lincoln Bight
9. Little Polovina Hill
10. Lukanin Hill
11. Lukanin Point
12. Maroonitch
13. North Point
14. Northeast Point
15. Polovina Hill
16. St. Paul Village
17. Vesolia Mista
18. Webster Lake
19. Zapadni Point

Scale 1:50,000

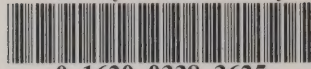


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BRYAN, Alan L.
An archaeological
reconnaissance of the Pribilof
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